



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2004

U.S. ATTORNEY, LEHIGH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, AND F.B.I. ANNOUNCE INDICTMENT OF ALLENTOWN DRUG GANG

ALLENTOWN – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Lehigh County District Attorney James B. Martin and John C. Eckenrode, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Philadelphia Field Division) today announced the filing of an Indictment¹ against 13 defendants who were members of the 2 ND Drug Gang which operated on 2nd Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania between 1998 and 2003.

“This gang and others like it effectively hold entire neighborhoods hostage,” said Meehan. “Law abiding citizens live in fear of drug dealers who use their communities as open-air markets and who protect their supply and profits with the threat of violence. However, because these defendants are being prosecuted federally, we can ensure that they will not see 2nd or any other street for a long time.”

The indictment alleges that the defendants were members of a crack cocaine drug gang which operated in Allentown, Pennsylvania between 1998 and 2003. The gang was known as **2 ND** since they operated on 2nd Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania. They are responsible for selling more than \$1,000,000 of crack cocaine and cocaine powder during the relevant time period charged. The indictment alleges that crack cocaine and cocaine powder was sold from inside and on the porch of 108 North 2nd Street in Allentown on a daily basis with shifts covering a 24 hour period. In addition, the indictment alleges that certain defendants possessed firearms in furtherance of the drug conspiracy in order to protect the 2 ND drugs and money from being stolen by rival drug dealers and gangs. Finally, the indictment alleges that certain members of the 2 ND gang were identified by 2 ND tatoos and jewelry such as 2 ND rings.

This investigation and prosecution was part of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, a joint initiative by the United States Attorney’s Office, each of the nine District Attorney's Offices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) , and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute dangerous firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. If convicted of the charges, each defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum 10 years imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine, and other penalties.

¹ An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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The indictment charges the following defendants:

1. **JULIUS BUTLER, a/k/a “Jerry Butler**

1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846

2. **JAMIE RAMIREZ, a/k/a “Ski”**

1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
1 count distribution of powder cocaine (58.7 grams)(Count 8)

3. **CURTIS KOEHLER, a/k/a “Big Shirt”**

1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846

4. **SCORPIO McPHERSON**

1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846

5. **GILBERT HERNANDEZ**

1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
2 counts distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine (7.1 grams and
13.6 grams)(Counts 9 and 11)
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(and (b)(1)(B)
2 counts distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of a public
school (Counts 10 and 12)
21 U.S.C. § 860

6. **FERRAND CLARK**

1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
1 count aiding and abetting the distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine
(6.2 grams) (Count 4)
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(and (b)(1)(B)

7. **HAROLD COHEN**

- 1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
8. **LUIS GALARZA, a/k/a “Luigi”**
1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
9. **VICTOR DIAZ**
1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
1 count aiding and abetting the distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine
(6.2 grams) (Count 4)
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(and (b)(1)(B)
10. **JOSUE REYES, a/k/a “Fuji”**
1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
1 count distribution of more than 5 grams of crack cocaine (9.9 grams) (Count 5)
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(and (b)(1)(B)
11. **THOMAS McGOWAN, a/k/a “Snook”**
1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
1 count distribution of crack cocaine (1.2 grams) (Count 6)
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(and (b)(1)(B)
- 1 count distribution of crack cocaine (1.2 grams) within 1,000 feet of an elementary school
(Count 7)
21 U.S.C. § 860
12. **LARRY NEAL**
1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
13. **TAMARA ROBERTS**
1 count conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine (Count 1)
21 U.S.C. § 846
1 count distribution of crack cocaine (2.8 grams) (Count 2)
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(C)
1 count distribution of crack cocaine (2.8 grams) within 1,000 feet of an elementary school
(Count 3)
21 U.S.C. § 860

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NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
JULIUS BUTLER, a/k/a “Jerry Butler”	Allentown, PA.	41 years old
JAMIE RAMIREZ, a/k/a “Ski”	Allentown, PA.	33 years old
CURTIS KOEHLER, a/k/a “Big Shirt”	Allentown, PA.	23 years old
SCORPIO McPHERSON	Allentown, PA.	23 years old
GILBERTO HERNANDEZ	Bethlehem, PA.	35 years old
FERRAND CLARK	Orefield, PA.	32 years old
HAROLD COHEN	Allentown, PA.	33 years old
LUIS GALARZA, a/k/a “Luigi”	Allentown, PA.	24 years old
JOSUE REYES, a/k/a “Fuji”	Allentown, PA	20 years old
VICTOR DIAZ	Allentown, PA	34 years old
THOMAS McGOWAN, a/k/a “Snook	Allentown, PA	28 years old
LARRY NEAL	Whitehall, PA	52 years old
TAMARA ROBERTS	Allentown, PA	43 years old

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The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Allentown Resident Agency's Lehigh Valley Violent Gang Task Force, comprised of the FBI, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation (BNI), the Lehigh County District Attorney's Office, and the Allentown Police Department. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Seth Weber.

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